

**CITY OF HIGHLAND, KANSAS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY HALL
NOVEMBER 12, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Randy Snyder, Jerry Twombly, Charles Batchelder, Ben Gilmore and Jim Watts.

CITY EMPLOYEES PRESENT: City Attorney Ted Collins, City Police Chief Brandon Whetstine, City Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach, City Clerk Joann Karn and Assistant City Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh.

GUESTS PRESENT: Pam Twombly, Charles Simmons, John Petrik, Rocky Ruhnke, Scott Huss, Scott Sisk, Bill Batchelder, J.W. Twombly, Dorothy Diveley and Jackie Watts.

PRESIDING: Mayor Ken Stewart

7:00p.m. Mayor Ken Stewart called the Regular City Council meeting to order.

Mayor Stewart asked for any discussion and/or approval of the minutes from the last Regular Council meeting held October 8, 2014. Council person Ben Gilmore requested that the wording on a motion he made during the Public Comments section of the meeting be amended **from:** *Ben Gilmore moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to move forward to begin the necessary steps to review and move forward with the proposal made by Mr. Ruhnke. The motion failed 2-3 with Watts, Twombly and Snyder voting no.* **to:** *Ben Gilmore moved and Charles Batchelder seconded a motion to move forward to begin the necessary steps to review and negotiate the proposal made by Mr. Ruhnke. The motion failed 2-3 with Watts, Twombly and Snyder voting no.*

Charles Batchelder moved and seconded by Ben Gilmore, to approve the minutes of the last Regular City Council meeting as amended. Motion carried 5-0.

Jerry Twombly moved and Randy Snyder seconded a motion to approve the bills for the month of October, 2014. Motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: John Petrik asked for an explanation of what the flags were for at the base of his driveway. City Attorney Ted Collins said the City had asked Dave Clark to flag the city limits along the north edge of town. Mr. Collins continued that it had been determined that the east/west road also known as Colorado Street was inside the city limits up to Simmons's driveway entrance. Mr. Petrik asked if the City was going to be responsible for the upkeep of the road at least to that point. Mayor Stewart stated that he had instructed the Maintenance department to maintain that road in the same manner as other gravel roads in town. Mr. Petrik asked to have that statement put in writing to help with any future confusion concerning that road and asked for a list of the other gravel roads in the City to use for comparison.

Rocky Ruhnke asked the Council to reconsider taking steps to negotiate his proposal for a fuel site at the old depot area in the City. Mr. Ruhnke cited several reasons why the depot area was good for the fuel site and he also gave his opinion on all the Council's previous concerns about using that area.

Scott Sisk expressed his concern that the Council was considering spending \$2500 - \$3000 to put up a fence and cameras at the dump site when there is not a fence protecting the City's water supply.

Dorothy Diveley announced that Highland Pride would be donating \$600 to the City of Highland for purchase of new United States flags and brackets.

Charles Simmons asked if the City was interested in getting rid of another old broken snow blade that had been used on the Bobcat.

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS: Mayor Ken Stewart said the City had decided to consult with Mike Schmitt of FINLEY, MILLER, CASHMAN AND SCHMITT, LLP concerning the Roadside Park.

Mayor Stewart stated that Chris Gibson, USD #111, had asked about and was interested the broken snow blade formerly used on the City pickup. Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to give the broken snow blade to USD #111. Motion carried 5-0.

Jerry Twombly moved and Randy Snyder seconded a motion to advertise for sealed bids on the broken snow plow as is (formerly used on the Bobcat) and bids to be opened November 26, 2014. Motion carried 5-0.

City Attorney Ted Collins stated that the City had received a letter from the Kansas Historical Society acknowledging receipt of the required letter concerning the demolition of the old water tower. Attorney Collins continued by saying the City would now be in a position to put bids out for the demolition project and suggested that he would have a publication ready for Council review and approval at the January 2015 Council meeting.

Assistant City Clerk Melanie Hollabaugh presented to the Council three bids to have the carpet cleaned in the Clerk's office and the Council chambers. The bids were as follows: Musser's Cleaning and Restoration for \$189.00 and an option for carpet protector for an additional \$95.00, The Cleaning Connection for \$175.00 and All Surface Cleaning and Restoration for \$150.00 and the option for carpet protectant for an additional \$60.00. Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to accept the bid from All Surface Cleaning and Restoration for \$210 to clean the carpet in the Clerk's office and the Council chambers and include the carpet protectant. Motion carried 5-0.

Assistant Clerk Hollabaugh mentioned the Clerk's office had received a request from Joel Bacon, owner of the new 4plex at 707 West Colorado St, asking the water rates for his structure be reevaluated because the building has been altered and is now a 3plex. City Attorney Collins suggested the Water Committee meet and look into the request. He also asked the Clerks to revise the City's current water application so it will ask for specific information and bring it to the next Council meeting for review and approval.

Council President Jerry Twombly asked if Mr. Bacon had been instructed to repair Prairie Street in front of his duplex where it was altered during construction. Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach stated that he had informed Mr. Bacon previously and he would remind him as soon as possible.

Police Chief Brandon Whetstine presented his activity report to the Council to include: 3-arrests, 13-citations, 23-verbal warnings, 43-calls for service, 9-assists to other agencies, and 3-accident reports. They assisted USD #111 for the Halloween Parade. The department is currently working multiple open investigations. The Police Dept. will be sending out letters to property owners in regards to dismantled, wrecked, junked and/or non-operating motor vehicles on or around their property, asking that the owners come into compliance with Ordinance No. 295 of the City of Highland.

Maintenance Supervisor Aaron Leach gave his activity report to the Council. The report included completed projects: installed new water connection for a new home, fixed water leak on Elm St. and at Noxious weed, installed new tube in street at Vermont and Nebraska, winterized well houses, electrical panels, towers, ball park bathrooms and water meters, assisted the County with new tube at Community Center parking lot and many more monthly jobs completed. The report also provided a list of several projects planned for the coming month.

Mr. Leach asked for the Council's approval for he and Michael Hunsaker to attend the KRWA Conference to be held in Wichita March 24-26, 2015. Charles Batchelder moved and Jim Watts seconded a motion to allow Mr. Leach and Mr. Hunsaker to attend the KRWA Conference. Motion carried 5-0.

Supervisor Leach stated that Blake Flannigan of Bartlett and West had contacted him concerning a program affiliated with Ace Pipe Cleaning to camera our waste water system. Mr. Flannigan would like to meet with the Council to discuss options as soon as possible. The Council instructed Mr. Leach to let Mr. Flannigan know they would be interested in meeting after the first of the year.

Council President Jerry Twombly asked Mr. Leach to explain some of the details on a job listed on the completed projects portion of his report.

OLD BUSINESS: Mayor Stewart led a discussion on options for a permanent sign at the "burn pile" site.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Jerry Twombly moved and Ben Gilmore seconded a motion to recess into executive session at 7:40 p.m. for 20 minutes for consultation with an attorney on matters that would be deemed privileged in attorney-client relationship and the open meeting will resume in the city council chamber at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0. The Mayor asked for the City Attorney and Bill Batchelder to remain. At 7:50 p.m. Bill Batchelder and Council person Charles Batchelder left the executive session. At 7:55 p.m. Bill Batchelder and Council person Charles Batchelder were asked to rejoin the executive session.

Council person Ben Gilmore asked the rest of the Council members if they were interested in setting up a time for a Special Council Meeting to further discuss the Fuel Site Proposal from Rocky Ruhnke. Mayor Stewart stated that no Council members had changed their minds since the vote at the last meeting so no special meeting would be called.

8:05p.m. Jerry Twombly moved and Jim Watts seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor

City Clerk